

COLLOQUY

Webster's Dictionary defines colloquy as mutual discourse. Readers are encouraged to submit additions, corrections and comments about earlier articles appearing in Word Ways. Comments received up to a month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.

Murray Pearce and Mary Youngquist believe that Jezebel Q. Xixx judged the anagrams in Howard Bergerson's book, Palindromes and Anagrams (Dover, 1973), far too harshly. There is no reason to downgrade an anagram simply because it was written many years ago or deals with an historical topic; the appositeness is what counts. Furthermore, they feel that Jezebel's standards for anagram quality are far too high if she must reject PATISSERIE / i.e., pastries or archaic words such as thee and hath (which actually enhance the antique flavor of the Nathaniel Hawthorne anagram). More important, they dispute Jezebel's contention that nowhere near 1,169 really good modern anagrams have been devised. Most of the National Puzzlers' League anagrams in Bergerson's book were created prior to 1935; since that time, the Enigma has published two to three thousand anagrams, a substantial fraction of which would be rated as "good" by a less exacting critic than Jezebel. Finally, they wonder why Jezebel did not cite some of the many fine anagrams in Bergerson's book, such as A DECIMAL POINT / I'm a dot in place, THE ALLIGATOR / lithe lagarto, or ENDEARMENT / tender name.

The August and November 1973 Colloquy mentioned the availability of an anagram dictionary, Unscrambler, for ten dollars from the Computer Puzzle Library. William Sunners writes that National Library Publications, Box 73, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11234 will supply this booklet to any interested Word Ways reader for only one dollar.

In the August and November 1973 issues of Word Ways, Dmitri Borgmann presented two ten-by-ten word squares composed entirely of tautonyms. He has been collecting twelve-letter tautonyms with which to construct an analogous twelve-by-twelve word square; so far, the only square he has constructed uses only two words, each one six times in alternation. Both words are taken from popular songs: "The Happy Wanderer" has the line HA HA HA HA HA HA, and "South of the Border" ends with AY! AY! AY! AY! AY! AY!

Responding to the "lips in pistol, mice in chimes" quatrain introducing "The Wordplay of James Thurber" in the November 1973 issue of Word Ways, Willard R. Espy of New York writes:

Eve's Dream The dream in your demeanor, Eve, dear friend,
Leads on to sorrow. Dreams told something sad;
Your dreams know part of Eden is Eden's end,
And part of Adam is mad.

In-Riddle I was recently told by a girl in Algeria
There was peace in Hepaticae, war in Wisteria.
I put her in halter, that girl in Algeria:
She wasn't insane, but she was in hysteria.

Dmitri Borgmann points out that it is not too hard to find beheadable words ending with J; he suggests SWARAJ (political independence in India) which beheads to WARAJ (an Iranian town). Using more obscure references, Palmer Peterson of Lennox, South Dakota adds several more: KHIRAJ (variation of kharaj, an Islamic property tax) to HIRAJ (in Balfour's Encyclopedia of India), KALIGANJ (a municipality of Bengal, in Lippincott's Gazetteer of the World, 1905) to ALIGANJ (a village of Kheri district, Oudh, in Thornton's Standard Gazetteer of India, 1882), AMIRGANJ (a village in Rangapur district of Bengal, in Thornton) to MIRGANJ (a town in the Rajshahi district of Bengal, in Thornton), and DAMLEJ (a port in Sutrapara, in Thornton) to AMLEJ (the Emblica officinalis, in Foster's Illustrated Encyclopedic Medical Dictionary, 1888).

Adding to his November 1973 Colloquy, Ralph Beaman points out that although STRAIGHT-GRAINED is the longest two-syllable word in Webster's Third, it is joined by STRAIGHT-STEMMED, STRAIGHT-STOCKED and STRAIGHT-TRUNKED in the Second (all woody words).

Following up on "Word Networks (Part 2)" in the August issue, Murray Pearce points out that it is necessary to go to eighteen-letter words in the Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary in order to find a network consisting solely of isolanos: there is a sixteen-letter network incontrovertible-incontrovertibly, and a seventeen-letter network congregationalism-congregationalist.

Darryl Francis has filled in a couple of holes in Ralph Beaman's November 1973 article, "Beheadments". ZUZ (a silver coin of ancient Palestine, listed in the Oxford English Dictionary) beheads to UZ (the home of Job, in Webster's Second), and VAV (a variant of waw, listed in Webster's Third) beheads to AV (a Jewish month, also in Webster's Third).